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Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01
SP-02 ICA-11 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 OPIC-03
STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 AF-10
ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 INT-05 /148 W
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O 061908Z SEP 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3836
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O.: 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD ETRDCR
SUBJECT: UNCTAD TDB: DISCUSSIONS ON COPPER IN SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ONE

1. DISCUSSIONS ON COPPER INVOLVING PRIMARILY PERU, VENEZUELA AND MEXICO WITH SOME SUPPORT FROM ZAIRE HAVE CONTINUED OFF AND ON FOR LAST FEW DAYS. BEGINNING TODAY THE ISSUE BEGAN TO DOMINATE DISCUSSIONS IN SESSIONAL COMMITTEE 1 (SC-1) OF THE TDB AND IN FACT THE ENTIRE AFTERNOON WAS DEVOTED SOLELY TO COPPER. POSITIONS BEGAN TO CRYSTALLIZE IN AFTERNOON SESSION FOLLOWING INTERVENTIONS BY GROUP B COUNTRIES AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, CANADA, USA AND FRG (ON BEHALF OF EC).

2. UP UNTIL TODAY IT HAS NOT BEEN ENTIRELY CLEAR EXACTLY WHAT PROPOSALS WOULD BE PUT FORTH EITHER BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF G-77 OR G-77 AS A GROUP AND SOME DOUBTS STILL REMAIN AS TO ULTIMATE OBJECTIVES. HOWEVER, GROUP B WAS PUT ON SPOT YESTERDAY TO AT LEAST TAKE A PROCEDURAL DECISION AS CHAIRMAN OF SC-1 WAS SUGGESTING THAT AN
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INFORMAL CONTACT GROUP BE ESTABLISHED TO DISCUSS COPPER. GROUP B AGREED THAT ITS SPOKESMAN SHOULD SIMPLY POINT OUT THAT SOME MEMBERS OF GROUP B WOULD BE MAKING STATEMENTS AND THAT GROUP B WOULD LEAVE IT UP TO CHAIRMAN TO DECIDE ISSUE OF CONVENING OF CONTACT GROUP BASED UPON DISCUSSIONS DURING THE AFTERNOON.

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3. THE G-77 COUNTRIES MENTIONED ABOVE ARE NOW INSISTING THAT THE TDB SHOULD TAKE A DECISION THAT A COPPER BODY BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE UNCTAD BUT IF SUCH AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED NOW TDB SHOULD INSTRUCT 5TH PREPARATORY MEETING TO REACH A DECISION ALONG THESE LINES. IT WAS FURTHER PROPOSED THAT TDB SCHEDULE A SPECIAL SESSION TO TAKE UP THE DECISION OF THE 5TH PREPARATORY MEETING FORMALLY SO THAT IT CAN REQUEST THE UNGA AT ITS NEXT SESSION TO PROVIDE FOR FINANCING AND ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BODY WITHIN UNCTAD. THESE COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO MADE CLEAR THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT AN INDEPENDENT BODY AND PERU HAS HINTED THAT IF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES PERSIST IN PUSHING THIS THEY MAY TAKE THE ISSUE TO THE UNGA. AS OF YET THE G-77 ITSELF HAS NOT AGREED ON A POSITION AND NO OTHER G-77 MEMBERS HAVE OFFICIALLY SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT THAT A BODY CANNOT BE INDEPENDENT FROM UNCTAD OR THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A BODY WOULD VIOLATE THE TERMS OF REIBLUTION 93(IV). ONLY THE SOVIET UNION AND INA HAVE SUPPORTED THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT. THE G-77 HOWEVER HAS TABLED A PROPOSAL THAT THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT PREPARE A DRAFT WITH THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL COPPER AGREEMENT CONTAINIHG (A) THE OBJECTIVES OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT AND (B) MEASURES FOR THE STABILIZATION OF THE COPPER MARKET. COMMENT: NOTE THAT THE MEASURES ARE NOT SPELLED OUT AS THEY HAD BEEN IN SOME PREVIOUS WORKING DRAFTS WE HAVE SEEN. END COMMENT.

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4. GROUP B COUNTRIES MENTIONED ABOVE IN THEIR INTERVENTIONS THIS AFTERNOON REVIEWED THE DISCUSSION SINCE THE THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING EMPHASIZING THE CONSENSUS ADOPTION OF THE DECISION OF THE THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING AND THE FACT THAT THIS DECISION IN ITSELF HAD ALREADY INVOLVED COMPROMISE ON THE PART OF ALL GOVERNMENTS. ALL OF THESE SPOKESMEN REJECTED THE ARGUMENT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT BODY WAS A VIOLATION OF RESOLUTION 93(IV). AUSTRALIA AND CANADA SUGGESTED THAT IN TERMS OF THE FUNCTIONS THEY ENVISAGED FOR SUCH A BODY, A BODY WITHIN UNCTAD WOULD NOT MEET THEIR OBJECTIVES. US REVIEWED WORK OF RECENT WORKING GROUPS AND ALSO SUPPORTED COMMENTS BY JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND CANADA WITH RESPECT TO THE NATURE OF THE CONSENSUS REACHED AT THE THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING, THEIR COMMENTS ON RESOLUTION 93(IV), AND VIEW THAT A BODY WITHIN UNCTAD WOULD APPEAR NOT TO MEET OBJECTIVESHAE HAD SET FORTH. DOOR WAS QEFT OPEN, HOWEVER, FOR CONSIDERATION OF ANY PROPOSALS CURRENTLY ON TABLE. IN ANY CASE IT WAS THE US VIEW THAT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO TAKE UP SUCH ISSUES WHICH WERE MORE PROGERLY TO BE DEALT WITH BY A SUBSEQUENT PREPARATORY MEETING. COMMENT: OGDEN, WHO WAS IN GENEVA FOR RUBBER

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MEETING, HAS BEEN CONSULTED REGULARLY ON DEVELOPMENTS AND POSITION TAKEN BY US. END COMMENT.

5. AT THE END OF THESE DISCUSSIONS SC-1 CHAIRMAN DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH INFORMAL CONTACT GROUP WHICH WILL BEGIN DELIBERATIONS AT 10:00 THURSDAY MORNING. IT IS STILL UNCLEAR HOW THIS DISCUSSION WILL PROCEED. WE HAVE BEEN PRIVATELY INFORMED BY UK REP (MARTIN) THAT UK HAS NOW TAKEN DECISION THAT AN INDEPENDENT BODY IS NON-NEGOTIABLE AND THEY WILL THEREFORE SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF ONE FORM OR ANOTHER WITHIN THE UNCTAD. THIS EFFECTIVELY ISOLATES THE FRG WITHIN THE EC AND IT IS UNCERTAIN WHAT POSITION THE EC MAY TAKE DURING THESE

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INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. US, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN WILL CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON PROCEDURAL POINT THAT IT IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE TDB TO INTERJECT ITSELF INTO THIS PROCESS. WE ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT A RESOLUTION WHICH SIMPLY

SUGGESTS THAT THE TDB URGES THE FIFTH PREPARATORY MEETING ON COPPER TO REACH A CONCLUSION ON THE ISSUE OF A COPPER BODY WITH NO COMMITMENTS ON POSSIBLE FOLLOW UP ACTION BY TDB UNLESS PREPARATORY MEETING SPECIFICALLY REQUESTS IT. RESULTS OF THURSDAY MORNING INFORMAL GROUP WILL BE CABLED TO WASHINGTON IN CASE DEVELOPMENTS THERE REQUIRE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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